

Dorothy Dignam Collection

S359

1865 and 1902

1folder

Manuscripts & Rare Books Division
Indiana State Library

Finding Aid by: Nikki Stoddard Schofield, February 2014

Biographical Note:

In the letter written by Ma to Fred, she mentions Frank's eyes getting better and Laura going to write to him. Frank Dignam is in the 1880 census for Indianapolis. Frank was 30, his wife Annie was 25, and their children were: May, age 7, and Gertrude, age 4. Fred and Lydia Dignam lived in Streator, Illinois, in 1937.

Apparently, an ancestor fought in the Civil War under Brevet Brigadier General Reuben Williams, who led the 12th Indiana Infantry after its first commander, Colonel William H. Link, was killed at the Battle of Richmond, Kentucky. The collection contains the published farewell remarks of General Williams, dated June 19, 1865, Indianapolis.

Source:

Information Found within Collection; Ancestry.com accessed 2/27/2014; and Guide to Indiana Civil War Manuscripts by Ann Turner, Indiana Civil War Centennial Commission, 1965, page 32,

Scope and Content:

Two items are in this collection. The farewell letter of Brevet Brigadier General Reuben Williams to his officers and soldiers was printed on a single sheet. The heading is: Head-Quarters 12th Regiment Indiana Infantry, Indianapolis, Ind., 19th June, 1865.

The other item is a hand-written letter by "Ma" to Fred. The date of October 31 is written in black ink, and the year 1902 is written in red pencil. The letter writer states that "Frank's eyes are getting better slowly." She wrote: "Laura is about as usual. She went to lead a meeting at the W. Wash. St. Christian yesterday afternoon." Ma told Fred that Laura would write to him.

Marked in red pencil are these sentences: "A man by the name of McDuff, who says he knows you, came here last night and asked where you were as they want all the voters they can get. He said they might give you transportation here to vote and we gave him your address, the Sherman House or Hotel." In red, the word "Chicago" appears after the word "Hotel."

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Collection Inventory
Folder Listing:

Dorothy Dignam Collection

Date	
19 June 1865	Farewell to Officers and Soldiers of the 12 th Indiana Regiment by Brevet Brigadier General Reuben Williams
Oct. 31, 1902	Letter to Fred from Ma

Collection Information:

Size of Collection:	1 folder.
Collection Dates:	1865 and 1902
Provenance:	Dorothy Dignam, December 2, 1974
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